

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1973

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FOR ARA/LA - LUERS AND S/PRS - FUNSETH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP - DRAFT JOINT PRESS RELEASE

1. TRANSMITTED HERewith FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL
PRIOR TO FINAL DISCUSSION WITH GOV IS A DRAFT JOINT PRESS
RELEASE FOR THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 19:

BEGIN TEXT: CARACAS--VENEZUELA AND THE UNITED STATES
AGREED TODAY TO NEW AND CLOSER COOPERATION IN ENERGY RESEARCH,
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND CONTROL OF SMUGGLING AND UNLAWFUL
USE OF DANGEROUS DRUGS. THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO AGREED TO BEGIN
DISCUSSIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS OF A SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT.

FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM AND U.S. SECRETARY
OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER ANNOUNCED THAT VENEZUELA HAD
ACCEPTED UNITED STATES INVITATION TO SEND A TEAM OF HIGHLY
QUALIFIED ENERGY EXPERTS TO SURVEY IN DEPTH U.S. RESEARCH IN
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY--COAL, NUCLEAR, SOLAR, OIL SHALE EXTRACTION,
GEOTHERMAL AND WIND.

IN JANUARY, 1975, THE THEN SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR THURSTON
MORTON PROPOSED IN BOSTON AT THE FIRST U.S.-VENEZUELAN SYMPOSIUM
ON BI-LATERAL RELATIONS THAT VENEZUELA SHARE THE BENEFITS OF
ADVANCED U.S. RESEARCH IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IN VIEW OF THE
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PAGE 02 CARACA 01710 122149Z

STRONG AND MUTUAL INTERESTS OF BOTH IN THE ENERGY FIELD.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FORTHCOMING TRIP OF THE VENEZUELAN ENERGY EXPERTS WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN IMPLEMENTING WHAT HAS BECOME KNOWN IN VENEZUELA AS "THE MORTON OFFER."

THE TWO MINISTER FURTHER AGREED TO UNDERTAKE NEW PROGRAMS IN THE AREA OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING, CONSISTING OF A HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS DESIGNED TO ACCELERATE THE PREPARATION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES REQUIRED BY VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED DETAILS OF A BILATERAL NARCOTICS AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR INTENSIFIED COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO STEM THE UNLAWFUL USE OF AND SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. END TEXT

2. COMMENT: THE "MORTON OFFER" TRIP HAS FUNDING AND HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY PRESIDENT PEREZ AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. PROJECT PLANS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED BY THE GOV AND WE AWAIT ONLY FORMAL FOREIGN OFFICE ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. OFFER.

3. PER STATE 031606 NO FURTHER APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITY MENTIONED IN TEXT. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION WELCOMES THIS U.S. INITIATIVE.

4. IN ADDITION, THE GOV DESIRES TO SIGN A NARCOTICS AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SHLAUDEMAN

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